



# EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A LOTUS

## the HIT LIST AGENDA

ISSUE #1 of 3

VINCE HERNANDEZ  
OLIVER NOME  
EMILIO LOPEZ



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# "PENITENCE"

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EMILIO LOPEZ

AND DAVID CUIEL

LETTERING

JOSH REED



PART 1 OF 3

*The story so far...*

The trail of "The Hit List Agenda" burns deeper across the globe, as the Cordova drug cartel in Colombia finds itself dominating their rivals with the help of their own capable executive assistant, Orchid. Yet, bloody secrets of the past threaten to haunt the future of the Cordova enterprise—no matter how far they must reach.

The Republic of India. The world's second-most populated country—a democracy. But a land fraught with great peril and conflict. With the fate of over one billion citizens under its banner, many 'unknown' forces at play dictate the terms of the country's decisions. Forces which blur the lines between good and evil.



A: DIRECT EDITION  
OLIVER NOME  
PETER STEIGERWALD



B: DIRECT EDITION  
EDUARDO FRANCISCO  
PETER STEIGERWALD

*created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner*

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NEW DELHI, INDIA. NOW.




THE ISRAELI EMBASSY  
EMPLOYED COMPETENT  
ENOUGH GUARDS AT  
THE FRONT GATE.

...BUT THE MALE MIND IS EASILY  
DIVERTED. A PUSH-UP BRA CAN BE  
DEADLY WHEN USED PROPERLY.

A SPLIT SECOND WAS  
ALL I NEEDED TO  
RAISE MY PISTOL.



KILL SHOT.



THE SECOND GUARD  
NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.  
BEFORE HIS MIND WAS  
ABLE TO PROCESS WHAT  
WAS HAPPENING, I SHOT  
HIM IN THE TEMPLE AS I  
EXITED THE VEHICLE.



THEY WERE EXPECTING  
RADICAL EXTREMISTS, NOT AN  
ATTRACTIVE INDIAN GIRL.

ALWAYS THEIR  
FIRST MISTAKE.

I REMEMBER THE BLAST WARMED MY BACK.  
IT WAS A SIZEABLE EXPLOSION FOR SUCH A  
SMALL EURO CAR. THE T.N.T. HELPED.



THEIR LOBBY LEVEL CONTAINED THREE ARMED GUARDS. ALL WERE MOST LIKELY ON THEIR WAY OUT TO RESPOND TO THE BLAST. BUT THAT WAS OK...

...I WAS GOING TO THE THIRD FLOOR.


THE NEXT PART TOOK GOOD TIMING...

BOOM

ZIPP

...AND FLAME RETARDANT CLOTHING. THE NANO-FIBER SUIT WAS QUITE PRICEY, BUT IT HAS PROVED ITS VALUE MANY TIMES OVER.






MY INTEL TOLD ME THE  
AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE WAS  
SOMEWHERE ON THIS FLOOR.

I CARRIED ENOUGH  
ROUNDS ON ME TO  
TAKE OUT THE ENTIRE  
LEVEL IF I COULDN'T  
MAKE HIS IDENTITY  
QUICK ENOUGH.



1:52

I CHECKED  
MY WATCH. I HAD  
JUST UNDER TWO  
MINUTES BEFORE  
THEY'D ARRIVE.



I TOOK OUT ANOTHER  
ARMED GUARD AS WELL AS  
AN UNLUCKY EMBASSY OFFICE  
CLERK. MAN OR WOMAN-- IT  
DIDN'T MATTER BACK THEN.


1:27



BUT NEVER CHILDREN.  
I DID HAVE RULES.

SEVEN DEAD BODIES  
LATER, I FOUND THE  
ISRAELI AMBASSADOR  
HIDING BEHIND A DESK.

I PLANTED A HIGH-  
POWERED SENTAX EXPLOSIVE,  
JUST IN CASE.



I TOOK HIM OUT WITH  
A MINUTE TO SPARE.



DEED DONE.  
I CHECKED MY  
WATCH AGAIN.

0:40

HE KNEW WHY I WAS THERE.  
HE KNEW I WAS INSURANCE,  
TO MAKE SURE HE WAS  
ELIMINATED.



WHAT I STATED EARLIER ABOUT RADICAL EXTREMISTS, WELL, THEY WORRY ABOUT THEM FOR GOOD REASON. AND ONE POSITIVE THING ABOUT EXTREMISTS IS-- THEY'RE ALWAYS PUNCTUAL.

AND NOW THANKS TO MY WORK, THE LOBBY GUARDS WERE RUNNING UP THE STAIRWELL BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS ON THEIR WAY TO TRY AND PROTECT THE MARK I JUST TOOK OUT A MINUTE EARLIER. THE LOBBY WAS UNPROTECTED.

...IT WAS TIME FOR ME TO EXIT.

WHICH MEANT...

0:05

0:00





ALWAR, INDIA. THREE YEARS EARLIER.

MY PREVIOUS LIFESTYLE WAS NOT IN LINE WITH WHAT SOCIETY DEEMS ACCEPTABLE, I'M WELL AWARE OF THIS. HOWEVER, I WAS BORN INTO IT.

MY FATHER TOOK MARKS. AND HIS FATHER BEFORE HIM. MY FAMILY TREE IS SOILED WITH THE BLOOD OF HUNDREDS, MAYBE MORE, SO WHAT OTHER CHOICE WAS AVAILABLE TO ME...

...BUT TO CONTINUE TO GROW ITS ROOTS.

I KILLED MY FIRST ANIMAL WHEN I WAS EIGHT. A MOUNTAIN LION, WITH A DAGGER FATHER GAVE ME ON MY BIRTHDAY.

TOOK OUT MY FIRST ADULT MALE WHEN I WAS ELEVEN-- A YEAR AFTER MY FATHER'S PASSING.

THIS TIME, MY WEAPON OF CHOICE WAS A BOW AND ARROW. I DEDICATED THE ACT TO HIS HONOR.

ELEVEN YEARS OLD.

STORIES REGARDING MY KILLS WERE EMBELLISHED THROUGHOUT MY VILLAGE, AND THAT IS WHEN MY LEGEND BEGAN TO GROW...

...AND MY CONFIDENCE BLOOMED.



FROM THAT POINT ON,  
I STOPPED COUNTING.

MISS  
RANI, MY  
LADY.\*

\*TRANSLATED  
FROM HINDI.

MY LADY,  
MR. KHAN IS  
HERE TO SEE  
YOU.

PLEASE, YOU  
MAY CALL ME  
NIMISH.

GREETINGS,  
MR. KHAN. AND  
YOU MAY CALL  
ME RANI.

AH, 'QUEEN,' AN EXCELLENT  
CODENAME IF I MAY SAY SO.  
ONE BEFITTING A WOMAN OF  
YOUR... TALENTS.

SO, WHAT  
CONTRACT HAVE YOU  
BROUGHT ME NOW  
THAT REQUIRES MY  
TALENTS?

HIS NAME IS  
VIRAT YADAV. A  
MAJOR PLAYER IN  
BOTH CORPORATE  
BUSINESS AND THE  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL. HIS  
ACTIONS HAVE BEGUN  
TO OUTWEIGH HIS  
RELEVANCE, IF YOU  
SEE MY POINT.

I DO.

YOU SHOULD  
KNOW HOWEVER, HIS  
HEAD IS ALREADY ON  
THE MARKET. HE WON'T  
FALL EASILY; HE'S WELL  
GUARDED. WE'VE  
PREPARED A FULL  
DOSSIER ON HIS  
SECURITY.

ISHWAR WILL SEE  
YOU OUT. PLEASE  
LEAVE YOUR DOWN  
PAYMENT WITH  
HIM.

YOU MAY SAVE  
IT. I PREFER TO  
DO MY OWN  
HOMEWORK.

PERHAPS, I WAS  
TOO CONFIDENT  
BACK THEN.



I TRACKED HIS MOVEMENTS FOR WEEKS FROM AFAR. STUDIED HIS HOME. HIS SECURITY DETAIL'S HOMES. THEIR MOVEMENTS. EVERYTHING.

I THOUGHT I COULD HANDLE ANYTHING.

ANYONE.

WHAT I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE...

FFFFFT



...WAS HER  
WAKING UP.

NO...





WHAT  
HAVE I...?

LOTUS, ARE YOU  
UP AGAIN? I TOLD  
YOU YOUNG LADY,  
THEY ARE ONLY  
NIGHTMARES--

MY... MY  
BABY! WHAT  
HAVE YOU DONE?  
MURDERER!! SHE  
HAS... SHE HAS  
DONE NOTHING  
TO YOU!

IT WAS... A  
MISTAKE.

I'M...  
I'M...

FREEZE!

SHE'S UP  
HERE!

**BAM BAM BAM**

I...

WHY I COULD NOT  
SAY THE WORDS THEN,  
I WILL NEVER KNOW.



TWO YEARS  
AGO.

NEVER A CHILD.

IT WAS MY ONLY RULE,  
AND I BROKE IT.

AND IN TURN,  
IT BROKE ME.

LOOKING INSIDE, ALL  
I SAW WAS HER FACE.

TO END THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO'VE  
CHOSEN THEIR PATH INTO THE DARK ABYSS,  
I DEEMED ACCEPTABLE. BUT THIS? I  
DENIED HER OF A CHOICE Altogether.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT...  
SOMETHING. AND I HATED IT.

I HATED THE FEELING...  
OF FEELING.



I KNEW HANISH WOULD COME AFTER ME FOR FAILING TO TAKE OUT VIRAT.

DO IT.

HE WAS IMPULSIVE, A TRAIT I INSTANTLY NOTED AS ONE I WOULD EXPLOIT.

I KNEW HE WOULDN'T SEND HIS MESSAGE QUIETLY.

I TOOK OUT THE FIRST TWO EASY ENOUGH.



HUH?

THE OTHER TWO, WHO NO DOUBT NONCHALANTLY DECIDED TO BREAK IN FROM THE FRONT OF MY HOME RECEIVED MUCH WORSE.

THE GAS WAS A RAPID-ACTING COMPOUND, AND IF I HAD THE CHOICE, I'D HAVE TAKEN THE SNIPER BULLET.

SHII--



THE LAST GUY...

HE KNEW WHERE  
TO LOOK...

TURN  
AROUND AND  
DROP THE  
WEAPON!

ROAR

ARRRGH!

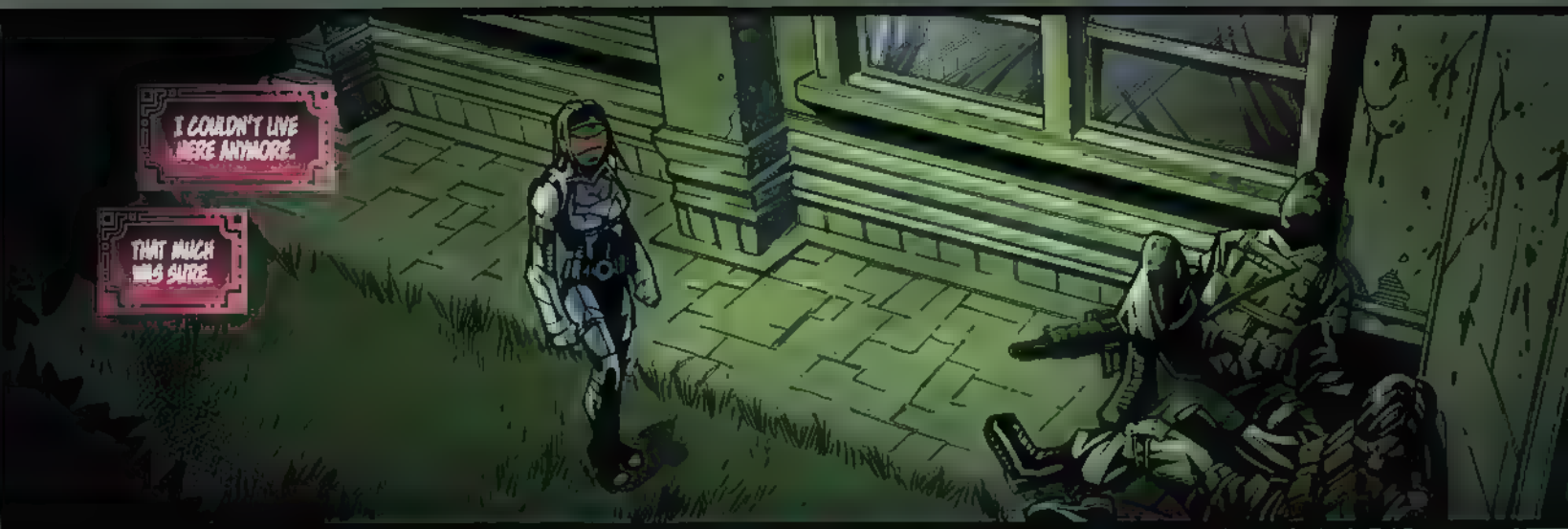
ALRIGHT.

YOU KNOW, YOU  
GOT IT WORSE  
THAN ALL OF  
THEM.

WHAT---

...BUT HE DIDN'T GATE  
REALIZE WHAT WAS THERE  
WAITING FOR HIM.



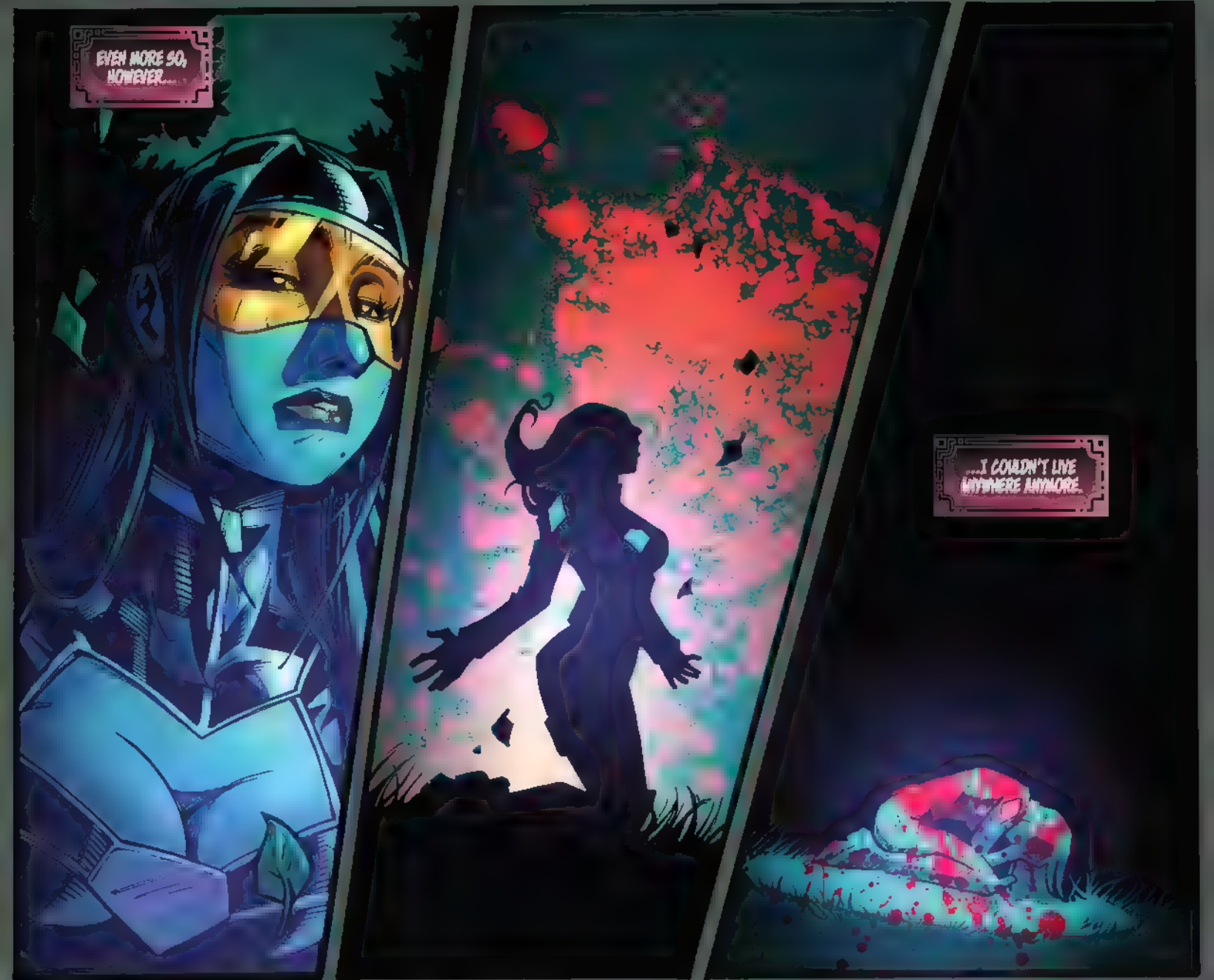


I COULDN'T LIVE  
ANYWHERE ANYMORE.

THAT MUCH  
WAS SURE.



EVERYWHERE I  
LOOKED, THERE  
WAS DEATH.



EVEN MORE SO,  
HOWEVER.

...I COULDN'T LIVE  
ANYWHERE ANYMORE.



THE DEMONS GROWING INSIDE  
ME FORCED MY HAND. I DECIDED  
I NEEDED TO END IT MYSELF TO  
EXPIANGE THEM FROM ME

NOT  
ANOTHER  
STEP!

IT IS OK... LET  
HER IN. BUT, WATCH  
HER CLOSELY

YOU RETURN  
TO MY HOME---  
UNARMED? YOU, THE  
MURDERER OF MY  
ONLY DAUGHTER.  
DO YOU WANT  
TO DIE?

I AM  
READY FOR  
WHATEVER  
FATE YOU  
DECIDE FOR  
ME.

I INTENDED TO KILL YOU,  
**NOT** YOUR DAUGHTER. THAT  
IS MY MISTAKE I MUST LIVE  
WITH, AND I AM PREPARED TO  
PAY THE CONSEQUENCES  
FOR MY ACTIONS.

THAT IS THE PRICE OF  
FAILURE MY INDUSTRY DEMANDS  
OF ME... MY CONSCIENCE,  
DEMANDS OF ME.

WHAT... IS  
YOUR NAME,  
WOMAN?





EVERYWHERE I WENT, I SAW YOUR DAUGHTER'S FACE.

I'M SO...  
SO SORRY MY  
ACTIONS HAVE  
LED TO THIS.

AS I TOLD HIM WHO I WAS, I  
REMEMBER THINKING THIS WAS  
THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER  
TOLD SUCH THINGS TO. INTIMATE  
DETAILS OF MY PROFESSION.

TO HIS CREDIT, HE LISTENED TO  
EVERY WORD WITHOUT DISPLAYING  
JUDGMENT -- OR PERHAPS HE JUST  
DIDN'T SHOW IT. ANY ANGER WITHIN,  
HE MUST HAVE BEEN HOLDING BACK  
WITH EVERY FIBER OF HIS BEING.


...  
COME WITH  
ME, I WANT  
TO SHOW YOU  
SOMETHING.

NABHI, DASHI,  
IT'S OK, SHE MAY  
FOLLOW ME ALONE  
FROM HERE.

BUT  
SIR--

DID YOU  
NOT HEAR  
ME?





RANI, DO YOU  
KNOW WHAT MY  
DAUGHTER'S  
NAME WAS?

IT WAS  
LOTUS.

MY WIFE AND I,  
WE FOUGHT OVER THE  
NAME FOR MONTHS.  
BUT EVENTUALLY, I  
WON HER OVER ON  
LOTUS.

THE LOTUS FLOWER  
IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER  
DUE TO ITS EVOLUTION. IT  
IS BIRTHED IN DIRTY AND  
INFESTED WATERS, BUT  
RISES TO THE SURFACE,  
PURE OF FORM.



MUCH LIKE  
YOURSELF.


I AM IN  
NO WAY PURE  
OF FORM.

AH, BUT YOU  
SEE, YOU HAVE NOT  
REACHED YOUR FULL  
BLOOM YET. AND I  
BELIEVE YOU COMING  
TO ME IN SACRIFICE  
IS PROOF OF  
THIS.

THERE IS ONLY ONE  
REASON I NAMED MY  
DAUGHTER LOTUS, AND  
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO  
WITH THE FLOWER OR  
IT'S FRUITION.

I AM A MAN OF  
PRINCIPLE ABOVE ALL.  
AND MY DUTY WILL ALWAYS  
BE TO THIS COUNTRY AND  
SINCE MY WIFE PASSED, IT'S  
BECOME MY LIFE'S SERVICE.  
THE LOTUS IS OUR NATIONAL  
FLOWER, AND SHE WAS A  
LIVING TRIBUTE TO OUR  
GREAT COUNTRY.





IT MAKES YOU...  
UNCOMFORTABLE  
HEARING THESE DETAILS  
ABOUT HER, AM I  
CORRECT, RANI?

I HAVE MADE  
A HABIT OF  
IGNORING THE  
MORE-- HUMAN--  
ASPECTS OF  
PEOPLE'S LIVES.

AND YET, MY  
DAUGHTER'S  
MURDER HAS  
DRIVEN YOU  
HERE?

LIKE I SAID,  
IT CHANGED...  
EVERYTHING.

YOU WERE BRAVE  
TO TURN YOURSELF  
IN TO ME. YOU **MUST**  
**KNOW** I COULD JUST  
AS EASILY KILL YOU  
FOR WHAT YOU  
HAVE DONE.

HOWEVER, MY  
DECISION IS TO  
ALLOW YOU TO LIVE,  
AND TO OFFER YOU  
MY FORGIVENESS...  
FOR SERVICE.

WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME  
CORRECTLY. I WILL  
SPARE YOUR LIFE, BUT  
I ASK OF SOMETHING IN  
RETURN. I ASK THAT  
YOU TAKE UP HER NAME  
IN HER HONOR, AND  
HELP ME RESTORE  
THE SAME IN OUR  
NATION.

I DON'T...  
UNDERSTAND.

YOU WILL, SOON  
ENOUGH. TELL ME, HAVE  
YOU EVER HEARD THE  
TITLE, **EXECUTIVE**  
**ASSISTANT?**



SIX MONTHS AGO...

THEY'VE JUST  
ARRIVED.

EXCELLENT. I  
CANNOT EMPHASIZE  
ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT  
THIS MEETING IS TO OUR  
PLANS. HIS INVESTMENT  
CAPITAL IS NECESSARY  
FOR OUR NEXT PHASE.  
THE EMBASSY TRAIL  
CANNOT LEAD BACK  
TO US.

YOU'VE STUDIED  
HIS NUMBERS  
ADEQUATELY?

YES, I HATE  
SURPRISES, I KNOW  
EVERYTHING THERE  
IS TO KNOW ABOUT  
HIS FINANCES AS  
WELL AS ALL OF  
HIS HOLDINGS.

YOU'VE PROVEN  
YOURSELF USEFUL  
BEYOND MERE  
BLOODSHED IN JUST  
A SHORT TIME,  
LOTUS.

I'M... PROUD  
OF YOU.

THANK YOU, VIRAT.  
YOUR GRATITUDE... I  
WELCOME IT.

HMMM...

I'M GLAD.  
NOW, IT'S TIME.  
LET THEM IN.



MY RECON DIDN'T REVEAL THE WOMAN WITH CHING, I WILL MAKE SURE TO LOOK INTO HER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING...

VIRAT, MY DEAR FRIEND. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.

...I HATE SURPRISES.

TO BE CONTINUED!  
EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT: LOTUS #2  
THE HIT LIST AGENDA



Aspen's Executive Assistant  
Event Continues!

# EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Lotus #2

HER INNOCENCE  
CAN BRING YOUR  
DEATH!

WRITER: VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS: OLIVER NOME

COLORS: EMILIO LOPEZ



## The Hit List Agenda Checklist

### PRELUDE

☒ EA: IRIS #0

### PART ONE

☒ EA: IRIS #1

☒ EA: ORCHID #1

☒ EA: LOTUS #1

☐ EA: VIOLET #1

### PART TWO

☐ EA: IRIS #2

☐ EA: ORCHID #2

☐ EA: LOTUS #2

☐ EA: VIOLET #2

### PART THREE

☐ EA: IRIS #3

☐ EA: ORCHID #3

☐ EA: LOTUS #3

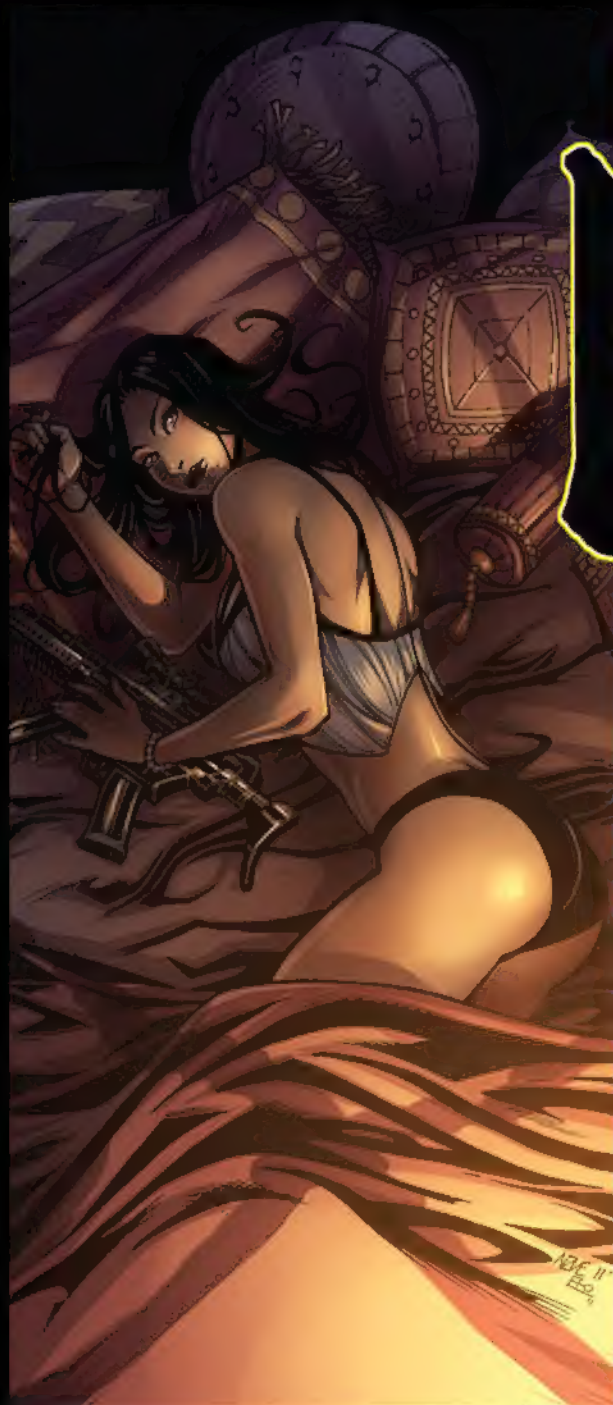
☐ EA: VIOLET #3

### PART FOUR

☐ EA: IRIS #4

### PART FIVE

☐ EA: IRIS #5



# EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT A Lotus



ISSUE #2 of 3

VINCE HERNANDEZ  
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SHE'S A SECRETARY, BODYGUARD, AND ASSASSIN ALL ROLLED INTO ONE...



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# EMPIRE

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